

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Pham for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the interview of May 10, 2006. The remarks below, in conjunction with the Interview Summary, reflect what was discussed at the interview.

Claims 7 and 22 stand objected to for certain informalities. Appropriate correction has been made and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have deleted the portions of the claims identified by the Examiner as failing to comply with the written description requirement and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. The deletion of these portions is not an admission that the deleted portions fail to comply with the written description requirement and applicants reserve the right to reintroduce these features in this application or in a continuing application.

Claims 4, 5, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In connection with claim 4, the Examiner stated that “said more than one designated facial image” lacks antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite “said more than one extracted designated facial image.” As amended, this language in claim 4 more clearly refers to the “instructions for extracting more than one designated facial image” recited earlier at lines 2-3 of the claim. The Examiner also stated that claim 5, through claims 1 and 4, refers to more than one retrieval key image and more than one designated retrieval key image. Applicants have deleted the reference to a designated retrieval key image in claim 1 and have amended claim 5 to refer to the “designated retrieval key image” described in claim 4. The Examiner also stated that the recitation in claim 11 of “the stored extracted image data” lacks antecedent basis. Applicants have deleted this language from the claim. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 12, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In consultation with the Examiner, applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 12, and 22 to recite a processor for executing program instructions. Applicants submit that, by this amendment, the claims are directed to statutory subject matter and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 12, 15-17, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) or under 35 USC 103(a) over Kinjo. As discussed in the interview, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 22 to describe receiving a name of a person and automatically converting the received name to a retrieval key image. Support for these features is provided in the specification at paragraph [0095]. Applicants respectfully submit that Kinjo does not describe these claimed features and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3-6, 16, 17 and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to independent claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 22. Withdrawal of the rejections and an early action allowing the pending claims is solicited.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 245402004000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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